

Appendix 3.8.6 – Guidelines for the Surveillance Required to Support the Establishment or Regaining of Recognition for a Foot and Mouth Disease Free Country or Zone

General comment

At the completion of the 71st General Session in Paris in May of 2003, the International Committee agreed to conditionally adopt these guidelines. The title of this Appendix as contained in the current 2003 *Code* is called “*Preliminary* Guidelines for the Establishment or Regaining of Recognition for a Foot and Mouth Disease Free Country or Zone”. Full adoption of these guidelines (that is, not calling the appendix “preliminary” any longer) was contingent on the Scientific Commission to further investigate the validation of the test for non-specific proteins (NSP). Various countries in Europe, North America, and South America expressed concern that the testing that was being recommended, while adequate as a whole herd test, was not adequate for individual animals. Such a situation might be problematic for FMD free countries or zones which do not practice vaccination and which may import live animals or whole carcasses. Furthermore, there have been significant changes (additions and other changes) to the current text of the Appendix without any clear indication to the Delegate as to where these changes have been made (no strike-through, no double underlining, no highlighting), thereby making it very difficult for the reader to evaluate such changes.

The International Committee had basically approved the text as it is contained in the current 2003 *Code*, however, the Committee was expecting additional information on test validation for the test on NSPs. Efforts should be focused on the validation of the tests used for surveillance.

The United States therefore feels that this “new” appendix should not be adopted at the 72nd General Session, but that instead the Scientific Commission carry on with the job it was originally tasked to do by the International Committee.

